AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A device for engaging tissue, comprising:

a generally annular-shaped body defining a plane and disposed about a central axis extending substantially normal to the plane, the body being movable from a substantially planar configuration lying generally in the plane towards a transverse configuration extending out of the plane, the body being biased to return toward the planar configuration from the transverse configuration, the body comprising a plurality of looped elements comprising alternating first and second curved regions;

at least one first primary tine extending from a first curved region of a looped element of the annular-shaped body generally towards the central axis in the planar configuration and being deflectable out of the plane when the body is moved towards the transverse configuration;

at least one second primary tine extending from another first curved region of a looped element of the annular-shaped body towards the first primary tine when the body is disposed in the planar configuration; and

said first and second primary tines being offset from and substantially parallel to an axis of symmetry of the looped element from which they extend, said first and second primary tines being substantially parallel to each other.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the body is biased towards the planar configuration for biasing the primary tines generally towards the central axis.

3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a set of secondary tines having lengths shorter than a first length of the at least one first primary tine and a second length of the at least one second primary tine, the secondary tines extending from the annular-shaped body generally towards the central axis in the planar configuration and being deflectable out of the plane when the body is moved towards the transverse configuration.

4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one first primary tine, the at least one second primary tine, and the body are formed from a single sheet of material.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the sheet of material comprises a superelastic alloy.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the looped elements generally define an endless zigzag pattern extending about the central axis.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one first primary tine and the at least one second primary tine extend from first curved regions disposed opposite one another.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 7, further comprising a set of secondary tines having lengths shorter than a first length of the at least one first primary tine and a second length of the at least one second primary tine, the secondary tines extending from the annular-shaped body generally towards the central axis in the planar configuration and being deflectable out of the plane when the body is moved towards the transverse configuration, each pair of adjacent tines having a first curved region disposed therebetween.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 8, wherein a secondary tine is disposed on either side of the at least one first primary tine, and a secondary tine is disposed on either side of the at least one second primary tine.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of looped elements are expandable between expanded and compressed states for increasing and reducing, respectively, a periphery of the body in the transverse orientation.

11. (Original) The device of claim 10, wherein the plurality of looped elements are biased towards the compressed state.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and second primary tines are connected to said first curved regions of said looped elements by a connector element.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein said connector element is curved.

14. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein said connector element is straight.

15. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the endless zigzag pattern comprises a generally sinusoidal pattern.

16. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first curved regions define an inner periphery of the body and the second curved regions define an outer periphery of the body when the body is in the planar configuration.

17. (Previously Presented) A device for engaging tissue, comprising:

a generally annular-shaped body defining a plane and disposed about a central axis extending substantially normal to the plane, the body being movable from a substantially planar configuration lying generally in a plane towards a transverse configuration extending at an angle through the plane, the body being biased to return to the planar configuration from the transverse configuration, the body comprising a plurality of looped elements comprising alternating first and second curved regions, the first curved regions defining an inner periphery of the body and the second curved region defining an outer periphery of the body when it is in the planar configuration;

at least one first primary tine extending from a first curved region generally toward the central axis in the planar configuration and being deflectable out of the plane when the body is moved towards the transverse configuration;

at least one second primary tine extending from another first curved region towards the central axis and being deflectable out of the plane when the body is moved towards the transverse configuration; and

said first and second primary tines being offset from and substantially parallel to an axis of symmetry of the looped element from which they extend, said first and second primary tines being substantially parallel to each other.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said at least one first primary tine and said at least one second primary tine[[s]] is connected to [[a]]the first curved region by a curved connecting element.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 17 wherein at least one of said at least one first primary tine[[s]] and said at least one second primary tine is connected to [[a]]the first curved [[section]]region by a straight connecting element.

20. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the at least one first primary tine[[s]] overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one first primary tine extends and the at least one second primary tine overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one second primary tine extends.

21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 17 wherein the at least one first primary tine[[s]] overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one first primary tine extends and the at least one second primary tine overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one second primary tine extends.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14 wherein the at least one first primary tine[[s]] overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one first primary tine extends and the at least one second primary tine overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one second primary tine extends.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 19 wherein the at least one first primary tine[[s]] overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one first primary tine extends and the at least one second primary tine overlaps the first curved region which is opposite the first curved region from which the at least one second primary tine extends.